













his pleasure at the good feeling which prevailed among the congregation of St. Thomas' Church. He complimented Mr. J. Massay upon his executive ability as an organiser and upon his success as chairman. In regard to the last meeting of the Anglican Synod, he said that the proposed application of colonial clergy to the higher positions in the Church had been done, but he did not think such an application advisable. It was all very well to say Australia for the Australians, but in connection with the Church he thought it advisable that they should procure the best available men in the world to fill these positions. Specimens were made by the vicar, the Rev. S. Child, and Mr. St. John.

A boy's FEAR.—A boy named John Elliott, 6 years of age, who resided in Marion-street, Leichhardt, was taken to the Prince Alfred Hospital yesterday. He was sent to open his eyes. It appears he had, some days ago, been persuaded to swim some times to keep himself away.

On Saturday afternoon, having obtained some gunpowder, he used that in the same manner as he had noticed the other powder applied, and then set light to it. An explosion occurred. As the boy did not recover from the effects he was taken to the hospital.

Case of Possession.—A man named Benjamin James Bennett, a resident of Macdonald-street, Macdonaldtown, was admitted to the Prince Alfred Hospital yesterday, suffering apparently from the effects of an explosion. It was reported that he had lost his right hand and fingers. A hand which contained some rags was found in one of the man's pockets. Bennett was recently in the employment of the Macdonaldtown Municipal Council.

The man gradually sank, and shortly before 6 o'clock last night he died.

The NEW FOREIGN AFFAIRS.—In London, the Foreign Office received a note written by the new French Ambassador in London. During the long interval between M. Waddington's resignation and the appointment of a successor all the French diplomatics have been successfully spoken of for the post. M. Debray, however, was the only one who had not been mentioned, and all the others had been mentioned, of M. Debray, but of M. Waddington himself, whose subordinate he had been at the Foreign Office. M. Debray's despatches have been regarded these models, and in all the positions he has filled he has left the reputation of an able and upright career.

He was ambassador to Italy during the most critical period of the negotiations between Germany and the Vatican, and although M. Lefebvre de Boigne was the Minister accredited to the Vatican, M. Debray was a close and sagacious observer of the international situation. It was the interest of France that the Vatican and Germany should be reconciled, the refusal of the former to give up Cardinal Ledochowski, then the grand obstacle, was attributed to M. Debray's secret action. XIII. invariably replied: "The Cardinal is my greatest and most valuable asset." As a statesman, as at Rome, M. Debray gained esteem and was equally liked by the various nationalities. He had friends in every camp and champion in all parties. He commanded himself to none, but sought to make his reception a meeting-point for all.

He was still young, being only 44, with a full, well-knit, of middle height, he has an open countenance, and a smile which inspires confidence. I believe that he speaks English, for he is a man of culture, and in early life was tutor to one of the highest families in France. He is good-looking, by birth and training, and is well-able to do the honours of the cause.

As a diplomat he always practises astute calculations, and there are many reasons to believe that England makes in him an excellent acquisition—that of a negotiator who does not create difficulties to make himself talked about, but is anxious to remove difficulties and to find in this his best resource.

The ANARCHISTS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The Minister of Education has had prepared an interesting return (says the *South Australian Register*) relative to the aboriginal population of the province. The figures were supplied by Mr. G. L. Macmillan, the Minister of Education. The return at the present time in the settled districts (exclusive of the Northern Territory) 1661 males and 1473 female aborigines, making a total of 3134. The decimating process which follows with aborigines in the wake of civilization, however, is still going on, and it is estimated that by June, 1893, when the latest figures were available, there were 1511 deaths and only 865 births. The amount voted for aborigines last year was £4,022, representing a cost per head of £12 1s 1d. During 1892 68 aborigines were arranged for vaccination, on the charge of £1 1s 1d per male and £1 1s 1d per female, or less than the cost of the vaccine.

The last connection is to know that 11 persons were convicted of supplying intoxicants to aborigines. If our civilization does help to degenerate aborigines, it is only to be expected that those who hold out a helping hand to them. The Aborigines' Protection Society, who do a valuable work, have 52 depots for the distribution of rations, clothes, &c. Of the four mission stations two—Poonindie and Port Lincoln—have been closed, and the others still remain. The return for 1892 is given to the Postmaster General, while the supplies both there and at Koppermanna receive annual supplies of rations, clothing, &c.

The average number of natives at these four mission stations is 629, while 105 children attend the schools. The financial return for 1892 is £1,022, and the voluntary contributions amounted to £530 1s 3d, and proceeds of £642 1s 7d, while £230 1s 8d was paid in wages to natives. The estimated value of the stock, produce, and buildings on the stations is £31,143 1s 10d.

A LOOKOUT FOR CHINESE IMMIGRATION.—The law in the several colonies for the restriction of Chinese immigration is strong enough to observe the Melbourne *Adves*, but a weak spot has been discovered in the administration of the Chinese Restriction Act of New South Wales which has upset statistical calculations and caused alarm. The non-enforcement of the 13th section of the Chinese Restriction Act has been a serious omission, and the Chinese have been able to import 1000 heads of cattle, and to bring the greater part of the cattle in Australia.

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